



The City of San Diego

## Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

### Construction Area Practices

Construction sites are a source of illegal discharges into the storm water conveyance system. The sewer system and the storm water conveyance systems (drains, streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, inlets, and catch basins) are separate; they are not connected. Sewer water gets treated, but everything that washes into the storm water conveyance system goes untreated directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination. The City of San Diego has made water quality a top goal. It impacts every citizen and the environment. You can make a difference by preventing illegal discharges and incorporating clean water behaviors into your daily routine.

#### Here are some Construction Best Management Practices you can adopt:

Identify the storm drains near the construction area.

#### Remember The 3 Cs:

**Control** - The best line of defense is to prevent materials and debris from entering the storm drain via procedural methods or "good housekeeping."

**Contain** - Isolate your work area to prevent discharges from leaving the site.

**Capture** - Clean up the work area by sweeping or vacuuming up any residue pollutants that have the potential to be discharged. Properly dispose of the residue, and check with the manufacturer for disposal requirements.

**Under the City of San Diego's Municipal Code §43.0301, Storm Water Management and Discharge Control, it is illegal to discharge construction debris and materials, into the storm water conveyance system or any body of water.**

**Failure to prevent illegal discharges can result in fines up to \$10,000 a day per violation.**

**Think  
&  
Act  
Blue**



Do not allow concrete, paints, chemicals, sediment, yard debris, etc. to enter the storm water conveyance system (curb, gutter, sidewalk, street, drain and inlet). And, store these products so they will stay dry out of the rain.

Establish and use an adequately sized concrete washout area to contain all liquids on site.

Provide erosion and sediment control to prevent these pollutants from leaving the site.

Provide a stabilized entrance and exit for vehicles to prevent tracking dirt off site.

Sweep-up surface areas regularly and place the waste in a dumpster. Don't use water to clean. Contain stored materials in a secure place to prevent seepage and spillage.

Properly dispose of all materials. Do not dump unused or waste products on the ground, where water can carry it to the conveyance system.

When washing equipment on site, prevent wastewater from entering the storm water conveyance system. Do not let the water leave the site.

Adopt these behaviors and help Clean up our beaches and bays.

**Think Blue**, San Diego. For more information, call (619) 235-1000, or log on to: [www.thinkbluesd.org](http://www.thinkbluesd.org)